

**Gervais School District #1
School Board Regular & Executive Session
Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 18, 2024**

REGULAR SESSION

Director Bustamante called the School Board of Gervais School District #1, Marion County, into a Regular Session on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Board members present included: Henry Bustamante, Ana Contreras, Maria Contreras, and Jenny Jones. Others present included Dandy Stevens and Sandra Segura.

Visitor Guest Book:

Caryn Davis, Creighton Helms, Prairie Ifft, Lenthal Kaup, and Valdovinos.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Director Bustamante called the Regular Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2.1 Public Forum Sign-Up:

Lenthal Kaup.

Public Forum Sign-Up included:

Director Bustamante reminded the public that if they signed up to speak, they should make sure that comments are kept brief and concise and within the time limit of three minutes.

School Board Recognition

The board was recognized by the administrators and superintendent in appreciation for their commitment to the students/district. Each administrator shared a few words of appreciation to the school board.

Budget Committee Vacancies

Ms. Stevens said there are currently three open positions and would like everyone to spread the word to fill these vacancies.

Director A. Contreras suggested posting this on the district website.

3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes to approve.

Motion:

~~There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director Jones that the Gervais School District Board of Directors approve the minutes from the Regular Session on October 19, 2023. The motion passed 5-0.~~

4.0 PUBLIC FORUM:

Director Bustamante read the rules for the public forum.

Mr. Kaup asked the superintendent if she had a degree in child psychology.

Ms. Stevens said to Mr. Kaup the intent of a public forum is not to have a dialogue.

Mr. Kaup said that hearing everybody matters regarding the bond levy. He expressed that most people have the money to spare even if they have a lot of farm property. He said that when taxes come in November, it puts a financial burden on them and other people he has heard from. He stated that he knows someone who has the solution to the sewer problem at the high school and has a lot of experience.

REPORTS

Student Council:

Prairie Ifft (Senior Class Vice-President) and Gloria Valdovinos (Senior Class Treasurer) presented the following for student council activities.

- ✓ The parade was a success, and everyone had a lot of fun. It was a special moment to go through town and have the football team recognized for the good season.
- ✓ Boys Basketball is doing great. So far, they are working hard to revamp the program.
- ✓ Wrestling also is doing very well and has a lot of growth potential. There was a home meet, something that had not happened in a long time.
- ✓ Leadership organized packages for foster families, they had other schools help too. It was a good experience for the leadership students.
- ✓ Gear-Up leadership gave out swag bags.
- ✓ Seniors have been working hard to apply for scholarships.
- ✓ Unified basketball will be starting soon. Students who participated as helpers enjoyed it last year and this year students will get to help again.
- ✓ Finals are in a week. Students are working hard to turn in work.
- ✓ Winter dance is after semester finals. The theme is "Glow Up" it will be very informal. The purpose is for students to have fun and dance.
- ✓ Planning prom: this will be in April in the same location as last year.
- ✓ Student of the month continues. They put a positive light on those who are doing good in school.

Administrators Report:**Federal Programs**

Dr. Helms presented the following:

Unified Week

- It's unified week and it's a truly rewarding experience. A game schedule was shared with the group. The first away game will be with Silverton School District. Kids will also attend a tournament like they did last year.

Special Services

- Partnered with Dan Shepard, a fantastic coach and former special education director from McMinnville. Has done fantastic work in the elementary FLC room. He will be moving to the high school FLC room to help them as well. He comes alongside teachers and instructional assistants. He watches what they do and then provides insight into what he observes.

ELD:

- Approaching ELPA testing. Testing starts in three weeks. The dates were set early enough to prevent any conflict with other testing.
- Met with the elementary staff to talk about strategies.
 - o Focuses on a domain that the student has not passed if they have passed the others.
- The more students that can exit, the more resources that could be applied to others.
- Working on creating speaking strategies.
- Earned confidence when taking the test, such as having a picture of their favorite thing to motivate them. The hope is that it will ease the nerves of speaking to a microphone when taking the test. Also, will continue with gifts to motivate them.
- COSA will put on an ELD conference and will have Mr. Gomez and Ms. So, presenting at COSA on the things that they are doing with Science with ELD students.

Early Learning:

- A monthly newsletter is put out.
- Setting long-term and SMART goals.
- Making an effort for all nine teachers to get rigorous training. The more training received by the teacher the more prepared the kids are for moving to kindergarten.

Federal Programs

- In the middle of federal programs data report to prove that there is no discrimination in schools.

Student Health

- Hosting nurses again this year from OHSU. The district is one of the only districts that has had a long partnership. The district nurse works closely with that group, bringing a lot of positive things to our students.

STAR Team

- Received a \$75K grant. Working on raising awareness in mental support, and attendance initiatives to raise student attendance.
- Outside-the-box strategies are being discussed at the moment. The funds will be used for field trips and to bring guest speakers.
- Upcoming mid-year is DESSA testing. This data is used to drive the trends of social-emotional things that are going on.

Director Jones asked if attendance is a problem in all schools.

Dr. Helms said that attendance percentages are 70's and could do better. There is still a lot of work to be done. More communication needs to happen with parents on the importance of attendance. There's a greater level of coordination that needs to happen, and we are currently thinking of outside-the-box ideas to increase attendance. This is a struggle across the state.

Winter Celebration

- o It was well attended. It was privately funded, received a lot of donations, and it was a fun event.

Business Manager Report:

Ms. Davis reported the following:

- Reported tax collection is higher than what was reported to ODE. The amount that was estimated was \$238K but should have been \$170K more collected in taxes. This is built into the equation that determines how much funding districts get, but will not see the impact until 2025.
- See the snapshot from 2021 to December. FCA payments are down by 17%. It went from \$3.4M in 2021 to \$2.33M. That is represented as money coming in, so it is not bad to see it as an expenditure. The other thing is that salaries from 2021 to December salaries/benefits increased with the COVID-19 impact, but the district needs to keep an eye on that due to student enrollment continuing to drop.

Superintendent's Report:

Ms. Stevens said that she would report later on the agenda.

6.0 BOARD FOCUS/MEMBER TOPICS:

Director A. Contreras said she would like to propose recovering student cell phones from the high school like the middle school. She understands that will not be a popular thing when mentioned to students.

7.0 CONSENT ITEMS:

- 7.1 Approve
New Hire / Temporary/Rehire:**
Daisy Correa, Welcome Center Secretary

Extra Duty:

- 7.2 Approve
Contract Change / Renewal:**

Recall:

- 7.3 Approve
Resignation/Retirements/Termination/Non-Renewal:**

Decline:

Reduction in Force:

Other:

Transfers:

7.4 Approve

Declare Surplus

Gervais District#1 Board of Directors approves to declare surplus the following items:

- Six Little Tykes
- Coupe cars
- Four golf bags

Motion:

There was a motion made by Director A. Contreras and seconded by Director Jones that the Gervais School District #1 approve the Consent Items listed en masse. The motion passed 4-0. (Director Toran was absent)

8.0 ACTION ITEMS

None.

9.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 SIA Annual Report 2022-2023

Ms. Stevens said that she must provide proof to the state that she reported to the board on SIA. She expressed that it's required by SIA that districts focus on at least one of the four required areas. Four required questions must be answered to determine how the district did in one of the focus areas.

The following questions must be answered.

1. What changes in behavior, actions, policies, or practices have you observed related to SIA implementation during the 2022-23 school year? How do you see the changes contributing to the goals and outcomes in your SIA plan?
 - The staff has a common language and tools (curriculum/assessments) to guide conversations and efforts toward improved academic performance for all students.
 - Growing awareness of the importance of looking at data and then making adjustments to practice is occurring.
 - Increasing investments in CTE programs in WCA has allowed student participation to grow and created programs that small districts could not do alone. Have six programs and will be implementing another one.
 - Several activities in relation to SEL and the counseling program are enhancing relationships and connections. Seeing that in the Youth Truth survey and will share this data in the future.
2. What barriers or challenges to SIA implementation have you experienced that are helpful for your community and/or state leaders to be aware of? What adjustments, if any, did you make to your SIA plan as a result of these challenges?
 - There were some projects that we were unable to implement because we could not staff the programs (Drug and Alcohol Counselor, After School Language Program).
 - We continue to struggle with attendance and finding connections or communication that resonates with parents and students.
 - Lack of time for the type of professional development and collaboration that our staff needs to make progress is a barrier. There is not enough money to add days to the working calendar which is what really needs to happen.

3. SIA implementation includes ongoing engagement with all students, focal students, families, staff, and community partners. How have relationships with or between those groups changed and/or been maintained throughout this academic year?
- At the elementary school, we have prioritized getting parents into the buildings for activities with their students such as game night, literacy night, art night, etc. which highlights skills students need (reading, writing, science, math) and gives staff the opportunity to talk with parents about how to engage their students at home.
 - The district continues to use in-person focus groups, surveys such as Youth Truth different engagement nights/meetings, social media, and newsletters, and all of these opportunities are also provided in Spanish as well as English. This community has always had a strong relationship with the school district and post-covid continues to thrive.
4. As you think about what guided your choice and prioritization efforts in this year of SIA implementation, what stand out? How will what you've learned this year impact future SIA implementation efforts?
- Difficulty in making progress with limited time for staff to collaborate.
 - SEL and academic progress are greatly impacted by the summer break and the lack of a robust summer school program. The state did not fund a full summer school program and we saw the impact.
 - The competing priorities of SEL and academics are difficult to manage during the school day.
 - Lack of attendance by elementary students makes it difficult for teachers to provide instruction.
 - Our main priority in terms of reading instruction and curriculum work is laying the foundation for improved academics and the state's focus and funding for early literacy will help us move forward.
 - All of our priorities also align with the district's strategic plan, the school board's goals, and the superintendent's goals creating a high level of accountability that will continue in the coming year.

How were the funds spent?

A list was shared of how funds were allocated.

Ms. Stevens asked if there were any questions regarding how funds were allocated.

9.2 Bond Update

Ms. Stevens went over every project that was listed for each of the buildings.
The following things were discussed for each of the projects of the buildings.

Gervais Elementary School

Comments by the group:

- Improving all the bathrooms at the elementary is non-negotiable.
- Reconfiguring the front office space is a high priority due to security.
- Roof is a priority.
- HVAC is important to do it completely not just parts of the building.

Gervais Middle School

Comments by the group:

- Important to have a middle school building.
- Middle school needs to have a library/media place.
- Important not to cut any things out of the list for middle school.

Gervais High School

Comments by the group:

- Upgrade in science labs, remodel student restrooms, remodel locker rooms, replace the roof, ADA access, create weight room, (that could save room for like a career resource center/counseling).
- HVAC is important to have at high school (this was mentioned at the Scenic Valley meeting).
- Also important are security vestibules.
- Major interior improvements, damaged flooring, ceiling, and wall surfaces.

District Office**Comments by the group:**

- Bleachers are a hazard.
- The list does not address lighting on the football field.
- Upgrade technology and security districtwide.

Ms. Stevens said that while the board is reviewing these projects make sure all are reviewing projects very carefully and writing notes on the projects if there are any further questions. She also said that it's very important to keep in mind the following things when reviewing the projects.

- ✓ Bond capacity has increased.
- ✓ Assessed value on property changes.
- ✓ Look at the projects that cannot be negotiated.
- ✓ Prices on projects are higher.
- ✓ Be prepared to decide by the February Regular Session.
- ✓ Include a loan in the bond.
- ✓ Making it clear that not having a middle school is not an option.

The board had a brief discussion about what bond amount would be appropriate to ask for from voters and be able to get as many projects done as possible. It was mentioned that \$1.97 per thousand of the assessed value of the property is a fair amount to consider.

Ms. Stevens said that the next meeting is scheduled for January 22nd at LifeSpring Church. She asked if any board members could join that meeting. Director Jones and Director Bustamante said they would attend. On January 31st, there will be a bond party from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to do a mailer for every registered voter.

10.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

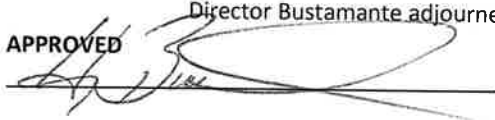
Director Bustamante adjourned the Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.

Director Bustamante called an Executive Session under "ORS 192.660 (2) (d) "Labor Negotiator Consultation"

11.0 ADJOURN**11.1 Adjourn the Executive Session**

Director Bustamante adjourned the Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

APPROVED



Board Chairperson



Board Secretary